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# THE BAPTIST Record

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## Africa focus of intense prayer campaign

ZANZIBAR, Tanzania (BP) — Three Muslim men sitting on some stairs smile and greet the group of women walking past.

The women are an odd-looking bunch. Three of them dress in traditional African clothing, complete with headties. The other five wear American-style clothes.

As they walk the narrow streets of Zanzibar's "Stone Town," the group stops randomly and whispers among themselves before continuing on.

Again the women pass by the same men, only this time, they are walking in pairs at different paces.

Some stroll along leisurely, stopping to talk or look at the ornately carved doors. Others walk with soldier-like determination. The third time past the stairs, the men ask if they are lost and need directions.

"No, we are just walking around taking in this part of town," one woman said. "We like this area."

The men stare back in amazement. No one likes this part of town.

Every storefront invites patrons in for beer and dancing. Homosexuality is hidden in the back rooms while prostitutes openly sell their bodies.

Tourists don't come to this part of town — unless they are prayerwalking.

The women visiting Tanzania's island of Zanzibar joined hundreds of thousands across the continent and the rest of the world in praying for Africa Aug. 3.

The special day set aside for prayer was celebrated through a variety of events, from prayerwalking to 24-hour prayer vigils to community-wide rallies.

The executive director of the Nigerian Women's Missionary Union joined the prayer team in Zanzibar. Every time Yemi Ladokun thought of people praying for her beloved continent, tears came to her eyes.

"Thank you, Lord, for bringing different nations together to pray," she prays. "The whole Christian world is lifting up prayer and focusing on Africa."

"This prayer effort is making a difference already simply by bringing so many people together for one common cause: to turn Africa to you."

The women walking through Stone Town had an international flair to them. The team came from Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Virginia, Ohio, and Florida.

They spent four days on the island, praying with a unique approach. They sectioned off the island and circled each section seven times in prayer.



TIME WITH THE FATHER—Two African Christians pause near a group of Muslim women to pray for their continent on Aug. 3, when believers worldwide joined in prayer for God's blessings on Africa. (Photo by Sue Sprenkle)

The first six laps were spent praying for God's victory; the final trek thanked God for the victory he would accomplish.

Gay White, volunteer from Richmond, Va., said she was surprised to see the aloofness present in most of the people's eyes as she walked around praying for those who have never heard the gospel.

"They just don't have a clue about the one true God. They are taught one thing all of their life, and it isn't the truth," she said about the Muslim island.

"It is our responsibility to do something. Whether it is through witnessing, praying, giving, or going, it is our responsibility," she said.

The idea for a special day of prayer came after International Mission Board missionaries in West Africa gathered around a map of Africa to pray.

As the group prayed for the needs of their continent, it just seemed too overwhelming. Africa needed more prayer support.

"2001 Pray Round Africa—Yes" coordinators Anita Hunt and Sharon Pumpelly started working on logistics for the special event more than two years ago.

"Once you write down the needs of Africa, there's nothing to do but pray," Pumpelly said. "The situation is so much bigger than any of us."

"Human response to all of the famines, disasters, and persecution will not save people's lives. God is the only one who can."

The goal was to have as many people praying in each country of Africa as possible and even more support

around the world. More than a thousand volunteers from the United States as well as Africa and Europe responded to the call of praying onsite.

Other Great Commission churches represented in Africa joined in promoting the special day of prayer, too, making it an event that transcended denominational lines.

Even more joined in by praying from their homes and churches.

"I realize that we are not going to change Zanzibar or any other place because we prayed," Pumpelly said. "I think what is going to happen is that all of us will be changed because we prayed."

• It's not too late to join the 2001PRAY movement <http://2001pray.org>

• Sharing hope, God's love as AIDS ravages Africa: <http://www.imb.org/learn/news/story.asp?id=687>

• Compelling on-line video about Africa's AIDS crisis! <http://www.tconline.org/Stories/July01/aidsvid.html>

• A full-color map tells the story of AIDS in Africa: <http://www.tconline.org/Stories/July01/map2.html>

• Free 14-day prayer guide on the Africa AIDS crisis and Africa prayer map <http://www.imb.org/resources>



BLESSING SOUGHT — After drawing an outline of Africa in the sand, Southern Baptist missionary Sharon Pumpelly kneels to ask God to bless the continent and its people. (Photo by Sue Sprenkle)

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Crucifixion examined

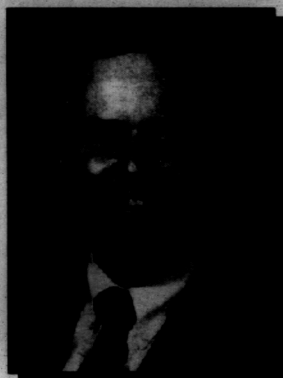
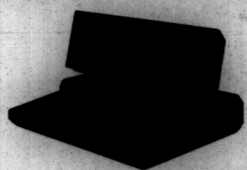
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# The truth about stem cells

In the raucous public debate over scientific experimentation on human stem cells, one pro-experimentation argument has been heard above all the rest — that there is simply no place to find a sufficient amount of the coveted cells other than in the core of developing humans at the embryonic stage.

Therefore, the argument goes, science should be excused as it goes about destroying developing human life for the stem cells contained in their embryos. There is no other way, we are told.

Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Stem cells suitable for scientific experimentation are not rare. Stem cells suitable for scientific experimentation are not found only in the embryos of developing humans. As a matter of fact, stem cells are found in abundance in the human body and — ironically — in a lowly, cast-off byproduct of the birth process.

That's right. Physicians and scientists intent on setting the record straight are informing all who have ears to hear that the placenta and umbilical cord, ultimately discarded after being expelled from the mother's body during the birth process, are rich in blood containing copious amounts of stem cells.

Given the annual number of births in this country, an efficient national system for collecting, preserving, and distributing stem cells from placentae and umbilical cords could translate into an almost endless surplus of the cells far into the future — and no developing humans would have to be destroyed.

Is such a system possible? Of course it is. There is a national system to collect, preserve, and distribute blood. There is a national system to collect, preserve, and distribute transplantable organs.

There is even a national system for collecting, preserving, and distributing pork bellies.

A national system for collecting, preserving, and distributing these placental/umbilical stem cells is entirely possible.

There's more good news, too. Scientists have found stem cells deep within the layers of human skin, or dermis, where they apparently lay dormant until receiving the chemi-

cal call to form into one of the many different components of the dermis.

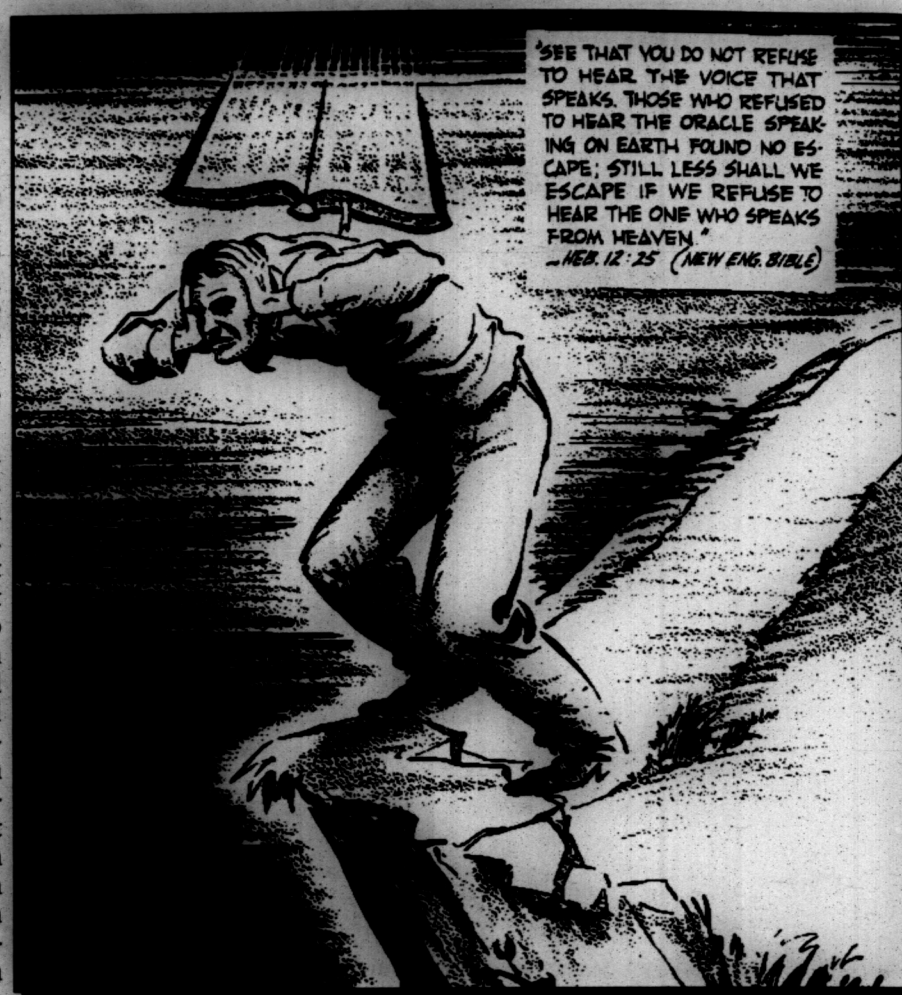
These scientists believe the stem cells in skin are going to prove to be an ideal substitute for embryonic stem cells. Early test results are promising.

In addition, a company named Infigen in Madison, Wis., has just announced that they intend to proceed with an experimental concept called "cellular reprogramming," in which fully-formed adult cells are taken back to their stem cell stage in a chemical regression and then commanded to reproduce into specific cells — brain, liver, kidney, etc. — in the same manner as embryonic stem cells.

Advanced Cell Technology of Worcester, Mass., has already filed a patent application dealing with their own form of cellular reprogramming, and PPL Therapeutics of Great Britain has announced positive results in early cellular reprogramming experiments in their laboratories.

As nature has proven over and over, the possibilities for discovery are almost infinite if we will but open our eyes. There is no shortage of stem cells.

So why are some scientists so bent on destroying developing humans for their stem cells, when those same cells are apparently available from so many other sources? In a word — convenience.



Embryonic stem cells are here now and easily "harvested." Most of the other methods of acquiring stem cells are not as simple and, in some cases, may not be available for a number of years.

Scientists say they can't wait, and therein lies one of the great lessons about science that we should have learned by now.

The lesson, borne out in history so many times, is that science will go as far as we allow it to go. Science is not moral, but we are. Science has no innate ethics, but we do. Science recognizes no God, but we know better.

Science cannot set standards. We can, and we must when it comes to stem cell research — and Christians should be heard on this critical issue.

Too much is at stake to do otherwise.

## IN MY VIEW:



### Remembering the Holocaust

By Tony Martin, Associate Editor

The museum presents the Holocaust in all its horror. I can't begin to wrap my mind around the simple truth that eight million people were murdered by the Nazi Third Reich, nor how a madman such as Adolph Hitler was able to inculcate his own rabid racial hatred on so many others.

Through graphic photographs of emaciated corpses stacked like cordwood, to video displays of mass murder, through the mute presentation of relics — a baby doll here, a pile of shoes there — this museum was a profoundly moving experience. I watched some of

our blasé kids, who had blown through the National Archives and the Smithsonian with barely a glance, openly weep at the sights before them.

About a third of the way through the museum, as we began seeing the results of Hitler's 'final solution,' one of our girls asked me, 'Tony, where was the United States during all this?'

Where, indeed? We knew little of what was going on, and what we did hear was just too horrific to believe. I thought about what we'd seen earlier in the week: the Declaration of Independence,

the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and other priceless documents and artifacts of our nation's history. I saw a classic juxtaposition: freedom versus despotism, tolerance versus intolerance.

Where was the United States? At the beginning of the Holocaust, it wasn't our concern, so we thought. This begs the question: in the face of abortion, pornography, drug abuse, and other sin, where are the believers? At what point do we, as a people, honestly and forthrightly confront wickedness, and how?

The museum tour ends with a section called the 'Last Chapter,' dealing with the liberation of the concentration camps and the justice of the war crimes tribunals. I'm still haunted by the words of an American G.I. who, in tears, told a sickly prisoner crammed into a boxcar with scores of others, 'I'm here to liberate you.' God grant that we would be able to say the same thing to a fellow struggler lost in sin.



# 'Bacon Boy' boosts Centri-KID experience

LYNCHBURG, Va. (BP) — Summer camp. For some, those words may conjure up memories of squeaky bunks, sweaty recreation, and rain-soaked boredom — but not if Bacon Boy was protecting your camp experience.

Bacon Boy? Who else could guard campers from evil villains Captain Boredom, Sleepy Sally, and The Swelterer?

Welcome to the world of Centri-KID at the Baptist General Association of Virginia's Eagle Eyrie Conference Center near Lynchburg, Va., where Bacon Boy, a red-caped superhero, made sporadic appearances to give announcements, lead kids in fellowship, and save the occasional camper who wasn't having quite enough fun.

Centri-KID is a children's camp provided by the same folks who introduced Centrifuge youth camp at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tenn.

The newest of the LifeWay camps, Centri-KID seeks to introduce children to the message of Jesus Christ through group Bible study, worship services, church group devotions, and other camp activities.

"Our prayer is that these kids leave here changed," said Sam Davidson of Nashville, who is serving as this summer's camp pastor. "We want them to realize how big God is and to gain a deeper understanding of him."

mer's camp pastor. "We want them to realize how big God is and to gain a deeper understanding of him."

Beach, Fla., who served as a Centri-KID Bible study leader.

"We're just like a big group of friends hanging out together.

Sometimes they ask some of the same questions that I have, and we just talk things out," she said.

"Get Up, Get Going" was the 2001 camp theme, and campers and staffers alike took it literally.

By 8:30 a.m., the auditorium was full of flying beach balls, loud music, and enough energy to power a small nation — and that was before the campers had even arrived.

"The Centri-KID staff has been incredible," said Lisa Fox of Liberty Church, Hampton, Va., who attended with a group from her church.

"They're such good role models for the campers. They eat meals with them and just hang out with them.

"They just have so much energy, and the kids love spending time with them. It's good for children to see young adults having a good time in the Lord," she said.

Camp days were packed with opportunities for kids to have a good time while glorifying God.

Campers went from morning celebration to Bible study and recreation time. After lunch they were able to choose two tracks, which ranged from cooking and camping to sports and swimming.

"The kids have a lot of choices," said Connie Waters, a parent from Bethel Church in Chesapeake, Va.

"They get to feel independent, while we feel confident that the Centri-KID staff is there if they need them," she said.

Staffers are careful to not let the games and fellowship overshadow the real reason camp exists.

"I want them to take more away than just the games and the track times," said David Bridges, a camp counselor and student at the University of Maryland at College Park.

"I want them to be able to take Jesus home with them. I want them to know how to talk to God and how to reach others with that message."

Each evening there was a camp-wide worship time, which consisted of music, drama, and a Bible message.

"Worship at Centri-KID is both age appropriate and non-manipulative," said Davidson. "We aren't providing worship for the staff or the adults, but for the kids."



PRAYING AFTER PROFESSION — Stephanie Collins, a counselor with Centri-KID and student at Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky., shares Jesus with a camper who had just come forward during evening worship time. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

Taking third- through sixth-graders to a deeper level is not something many people venture to do, but the 22 inaugural staff members of Centri-KID at Eagle Eyrie have sought to pave the way.

"We want these kids to know that our God is their God," said Davidson. "Our Bible study leaders talk to them on their level. We try not to see them as young and immature, but as children who need to know who God is so that maybe one day they'll look back on camp and remember how much God loves them," he said.

"I just try to put myself where they are," said Shantra Bolek, a student at Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm

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### Pro-life order countered

WASHINGTON (BP) — Two Senate committees have voted to overturn a pro-life policy President George W. Bush reinstated earlier this year. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved legislation Aug. 1 that would once again provide government funds to organizations that perform or promote abortions in foreign countries, according to a report on Pro-life Infonet. The Senate Appropriations Committee passed a similar provision July 26 as part of a one-year foreign aid spending bill, according to the report. The committee action came six months after Bush issued an executive order prohibiting family planning funding to those international organizations that perform or counsel for abortion, or lobby in order to liberalize the pro-life policies of foreign governments. His action Jan. 22, his second full day in office, re-established the Mexico City policy, so named for the city where its inauguration by President Reagan was announced at a conference in 1984. Bush's move elicited strong criticism from abortion-rights groups. President Clinton rescinded the Mexico City policy on his second full day in office, Jan. 22, 1993. If the Senate approves the legislation, it would set up a conflict with Bush and the House of Representatives. The House already has voted in support of Bush's order, according to the report. Meanwhile, the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, an abortion rights organization, announced Aug. 1 it would appeal a New York federal judge's dismissal of its challenge of the Mexico City policy.

### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

In a rousing address, Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board (FMB) of The Southern Baptist Convention, challenges FMB trustees to accelerate worldwide evangelistic efforts during the decade. Parks also announces plans to remain as the head of the board through 1995.

#### 20 years ago

A \$2.1 million annual contract gives the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission a transponder on a communications satellite to be launched in 1984. The transponder will serve as a 24-hour-a-day conduit for the American Christian Television System (ACTS).

#### 50 years ago

An unidentified author writes the Baptist Record: "I am trying to get ready to go to Clarke College. I have enough money to pay my bus fare. I only have two pairs of pants and a few shirts. The devil is tempting me. My father is a drunkard. Please pray for me."



# Batesville physician examines Christ's death

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

It's a fact that most Christians today have only a vague understanding of the agony Jesus Christ experienced during the hours leading up to, and including, the crucifixion.



**AT THE CROSS** — Physician David Ball (right) of Batesville is seen with an unidentified man portraying Jesus in Ball's presentation of *The Crucifixion and Death of a Man Called Jesus*. Ball offers this presentation in churches around the Southeast. (BR special photo)

David Ball has developed a ministry that makes the cross experience come alive.

Ball, a physician in Batesville and member of First Church, Batesville, became interested several years ago in studying the suffering and death of Christ from a medical standpoint.

In 1986, the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* published an article, *On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ*.

"It was an excellent article with good references and detailed sketches designed to give the reader a better understanding of a now extinct form of execution — crucifixion," Ball pointed out.

In his studies, however, Ball reached a different conclusion than did the JAMA authors, who pointed toward exhaustion and asphyxiation as the cause of death.

Ball's research identified an actual rupture of the heart's myocardium, leading to cardiac tamponade (compression), as the probable cause of death.

Ball wrote an article for the *Journal of the Mississippi State Medical Association* entitled, *The Crucifixion and Death of a Man Called Jesus*, in March 1989. He began to receive invitations to make presentations on the crucifixion in churches and to various clubs and organizations.

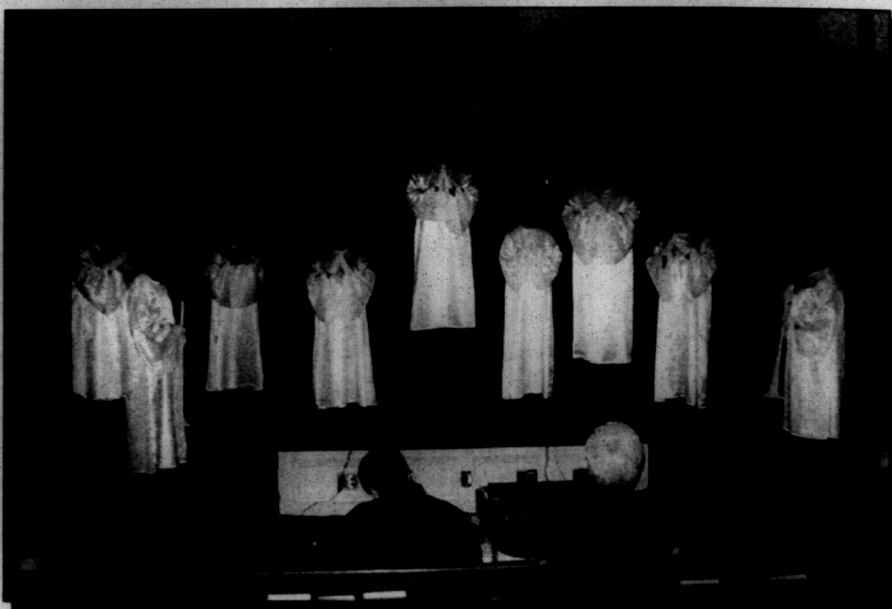
From those initial presentations, Ball has expanded and developed his presentation to include multimedia and drama elements. He founded The Cross Ministry, Inc., as an organization to oversee the presentation of the program.

Ball now presents the *Crucifixion and Death of a Man Called Jesus* utilizing a traveling team to manage the production, plus utilizing local church members as cast participants — one man to portray Jesus, and nine other young men and women to portray angels.

The presentation consists of ten different scenes and lasts an hour. The Cross Ministry provides all the props and costumes necessary for the presentation.

Using drama and multimedia, the audience is shown, in dramatic form, what Scripture says about the medical aspects of Christ's crucifixion.

The ministry has been well received. Bobby Douglas, pastor of First Church, Batesville, presents this ministry in churches and to other groups when he is invited to do so. (BR special photo)



**HEAVENLY HOST** — Angels, portrayed by young men and women in a local church, participate in David Ball's presentation of *The Crucifixion and Death of a Man Called Jesus*. Ball, a physician in Batesville, presents this ministry in churches and to other groups when he is invited to do so. (BR special photo)

## Conservative pastors meet for Bible conference

Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

The Mississippi Baptist Conservative Pastors Conference (MBCPC) sponsored a Bible conference August 9 at Antioch Church in Columbus.

Bearing the theme, *A Celebration of the Word and Worship*, the conference featured several notable pastors and laymen. Included on the program from out-of-state were Randy Isbell, pastor of New Hope Church in Savannah, Tenn.; Jerry Vines, pastor of

First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church in Dallas, Tex.; and Roger Moran, research director of the Missouri Baptist Layman's Association (MBLA), Winfield, Mo.

Local speakers included Clark Stewart, pastor of Harmony Church, Crystal Springs and MBCPC president; Ed Knox, Antioch Church host pastor; and Kara Blackard, pastor of Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth.

Isbell presented the first message. Drawing from Psalm 78:40 and other sources, he stated, "Can the glory of God rest on us like he wants, it to? We are so focused on the blessings of God that we neglect the God of blessings. God is grieved by our attitudes."

Vines took his text from Jude 17, sounding dire warnings about the presence of apostasy in the church. "Don't let the culture surprise you," Vines said. "Our culture isn't headed for apostasy; we're living in the apostasy. Don't be surprised when people depart from the faith."

"The local church is only one bad or liberal preacher away from apostasy," he stated.

Vines made several statements to the pastors present. "Some of us who are conservatives seem to be pursuing a personal agenda," he said. "There's no excuse for anyone being unloving or mean."

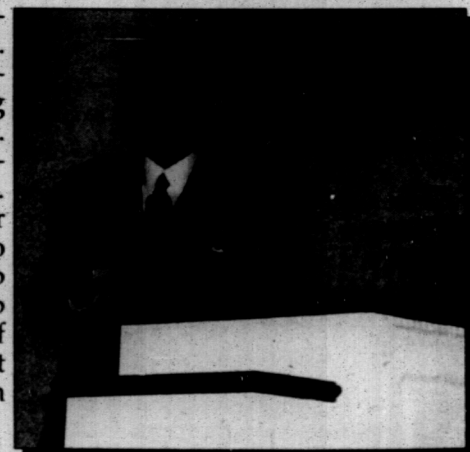
"If you want to keep your heart right before God, do some simple things: keep reading your Bible, and keep on praying. The secret of your success and the secret of your failure is found in your quiet time," he said.

Blackard, using 2 Kings 21 as his text, invited conferees to "imagine a world without the Bible."

Blackard stated, "We can't ever step any higher than when a man opens the Bible before a group of people who are going to spend eternity somewhere. We have to be faithful to the Book."

After a break for dinner, Moran described the work of MBLA, which was instrumental in Missouri in identifying conservative pastors and churches.

Through a strategy called Project 1000, the MBLA stated their desire to see "the leadership of the Missouri Baptist Convention move from a center-left majority that has been willing to tolerate liberalism, to a center-right majority whose



**VINES PREACHES** — Jerry Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., addresses the Mississippi Baptist Conservative Pastors Conference Aug. 9 at Antioch Church, Columbus. (Photo by Tony Martin)

leadership will reflect a commitment to sound Biblical truth."

The conference ended with a message by Graham. "It's not our responsibility to get people in the church; it's our responsibility to get Jesus in our church," he said.

"God does not exist for our church," he continued. "You don't do church to give people what they want."

"I don't like the term 'megachurch.' The issue is not how big your church is, it's how big God is in the church."

## Lowery resigns Hoffmantown pastorate

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP) — Charles S. Lowery, senior pastor of Hoffmantown Church, Albuquerque, N.M., and a popular conference speaker and writer, announced his resignation to the congregation on July 22. Lowery has been pastor of the largest Baptist church in New Mexico since Jan. 1, 1991.

A staff member at the church told the Baptist New Mexican July 23 that Lowery told the church that he desired to "expand his territory," citing the prayer of Jabez found in 1 Chron. 4:10, which has been popularized in a book with the same name by Bruce Wilkinson.

**TOWARD HEAVEN** — Kara Blackard drives home a point during the Mississippi Baptist Conservative Pastors Conference during a meeting at Antioch Church, Columbus. Blackard is pastor of Wheeler Grove Church in Corinth. (Photo by Tony Martin)



# VBS results: 500,000 S.S. prospects gained

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Churches gained more than a half-million prospects for Southern Baptist Sunday Schools, thanks to Vacation Bible Schools (VBS) conducted in 2000. Statistics from VBS 2000 have been gathered following the tabulation of information sent in on church VBS report forms and the Annual Church Profile (ACP) at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Statistics are not yet available for the 2001 VBS season. Information gathered from the 2000 "Ocean Odyssey"-themed VBS yielded included:

- Churches and missions reported 25,244 schools.
- A total of 2,795,494 enrolled in VBS.
- An average of 111 attended each VBS.
- A total of 91,477 made professions of faith through VBS.
- A total of 532,243 prospects for enrollment in Sunday School were discovered through VBS.

VBS remains the "number one avenue we have for reaching prospects for Sunday School," said Becky Martin, LifeWay's Sunday School/FAITH consultant for VBS.

Also, she noted, the number of decisions to accept Christ reported from VBS usually equals about 25% of the total baptisms reported on the ACP annually.

The VBS 2000 numbers are estimates based on the ratios of the total enrollment from actual VBS reports to the total enrollment reported on the ACP, Martin said.

Of the total enrollment in VBS 2000, about 25% were preschool-age children; another 25% were children in grades one through six; 25%, faculty; 14%, youth; and the rest in other categories.

In addition to written reports, Martin said LifeWay worked with state conven-

tions and associations to gather statistics. "A new reporting system will be in place for 2002 that allows churches to enter their

reports directly into the Southern Baptist Directory Services by means of the Internet," she said.

## Getting under the hood



Danny Spraffin (right), pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Calhoun City, and Andy Tindall, a member of Second Church, Calhoun City, check out an automobile engine during a car clinic sponsored by Calhoun Association. The clinic, which is open to widows, the elderly, and others who have difficulty maintaining their autos, has proved to be an effective outreach tool, according to Calhoun associational missions director Wayne Gullett. "It's a very rewarding ministry," said Gullett. The Associational Missions Response Fund of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has provided \$125 per month for the ministry. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

## Doctors blast CDC's safe sex campaign

WASHINGTON (BP) — Two physicians groups representing some 10,000 doctors nationwide are calling for the director of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to step down because of the CDC's "safe sex" campaign that allegedly masked the deficiencies of condom use and withheld information about those deficiencies from the American public, CNS-News.com reported July 25.

The Catholic Medical Association, with a membership of 8,000, and the Physicians Consortium, with a membership of 2,000, accuse the CDC of failing to curb the spread of venereal disease, including AIDS.

According to data provided by Former U.S. Representative Tom Coburn, a practicing physician, and other members of the Physician's Consortium, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have discovered that condoms are ineffective in preventing genital herpes, chlamydia, syphilis, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), and gonorrhea in women.

The NIH study, however, does show that condoms have some effectiveness among men. Coburn and others claim NIH's data underscores what they believe is the CDC's irresponsibility in providing the public with accurate information about condoms.

"Condoms work 85% of the time on HIV; there is nobody that denies that," Coburn said.

"That means a one in six chance that if you have intercourse with someone who is HIV-infected that you are going to get infected" he pointed out.

## BOW YOUR EYES AND CLOSE YOUR HEAD

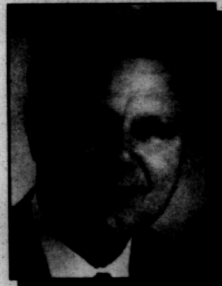
It was an honest mistake! It was one of those mind-drifting moments when you think you are thinking what you are thinking, and you think your tongue is saying what you are thinking, but instead, your tongue meanders off into its own little world and rather than saying what you are thinking, it is saying what you aren't thinking!

"Bow your head and close your eyes," can sometimes be heard as instructions given to folks for a prayer time, especially to children, or in a group, that may not be familiar with the elements of worship. On this particular occasion it came out, "Bow your eyes and close your head."

Since most of us are so used to saying something like that, many folks didn't even notice the switch. Others thought they heard something other than what they normally hear, but momentarily were not sure and then reflected with a slight smile or chuckle because their brains began to untangle the twisted statement.

Still others, alert to the situation, knew what they heard and were kind enough not to cackle out loud, choosing rather to hold the thought in reserve until they could get to the preacher and ask, "Do you know what you said?"

While it does not happen



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

every Sunday, thank goodness, it is not unusual to hear of someone reversing a word order or saying something akin to, "Bow your eyes and close your head." Worse things have happened in people's lives and no great harm was done.

As I think about this "speech quirk," I see both positive and negative things that result. The positive thing that I view is that it is good for all of us to understand that pastors are human beings just like everyone else.

Pastors make mistakes and just like everyone else they grow weary and their reserves — emotional, physical, and mental — wane and they stumble about and make mistakes.

Whether we realize it or not, it is a good thing to keep in focus the fact that pastors do live on a human plane. When they make mistakes, it would help if we were more understanding and less shocked.

At times people want to put the pastor on a "super-human," "above the rest of the crowd," and "knows all and

can do all," kind of pedestal. The truth is they are good folks, but they are human beings saved by the grace of God from sin and destruction and are serving Jesus only out of mercy extended from Heaven.

From time to time I have heard people say things about pastors like, "If he was truly a man of God he would have known," or "If he was the pastor he ought to be he would have been able to do..."

Those are easy statements to make but are really far from the truth. Being a human being means to have needs, limitations, and deficiencies as you deal with the daily struggles of life.

In that mix, sometimes your brain and your tongue connectors are not acting up to speed and that is okay because that is who all of us are — human beings with limitations.

As I think further about the quirk, "Bow your eyes and close your head," I am aware that some people might actually do what they have been asked to do — close their head.

Probably most of us have a greater capacity of doing that than we would like to admit, but it is not a good thing. Often, if we don't like something that we hear, we just shut our head.

Do you recall when the deacon preacher, Stephen, was preaching his great sermon in Acts? It is one of the greatest sermons in the Bible and the crowd that was listening did not want to hear what they heard.

Though no one instructed them to do so, Acts 7:57 says, "They stopped their ears," thereby shutting the message out.

I suppose it happens every Sunday somewhere, to some of us — that we close our heads. Yet, in spite of that, the message that Stephen was preaching got through and it may get through to you and to me.

At that point, the folks in Acts 7 felt compelled to kill the messenger since they could not shut the message out and did not like his word. They closed their heads and then they killed the message bearer.

In time, all of those who participated in that event died and the message remained. The message remains to this day, strong and true.

Maybe this is a good point for us to stop and bow our heads, close our eyes and pray, asking God to open our eyes and broaden our minds to understand his will and have the grace to follow him.



## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Tammie Worsham** of Bogue Chitto Church, Bogue Chitto, was among 62 people who participated in the recent Writers Conference held at Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) in Birmingham, Ala. She

will write for Start, WMU's magazine for Mission Friends (preschool) teachers, during 2002-2003.

**Michelle Whittington** is the recipient of a scholarship to Holmes Community College from the Anna Lynn Osborne Memorial Trust Fund managed by the Mississippi



Worsham

Baptist Foundation. She is the daughter of Arla and Lester Whittington and a member of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson. Pictured with Whittington are John and Nell Osborne who established this fund in memory of their daughter.

**Steve Estess, Don Hall, and Wallace McKenzie** were ordained as new deacons in a service held Aug. 12 at Silver Creek Church, McComb. Pat Bourg is pastor.

An ordination service for Mack Alford was held at Beacon Street Church, Philadelphia, on July 8. He is currently serving as pastor at

Mt. Nelson Church, Neshoba Association. Pictured (from left) are J. B. Costilow, Newton; Chris Vowell, pastor; Alford; and Jim Smith, former pastor.



Costilow, Newton, Vowell, Alford, and Smith



J. Osborne, Whittington, and N. Osborne

## VBS RESULTS

**Steep Hollow, Poplarville:** June 18-22; enrollment of 199 children with average attendance of 190; Barbara Ann Ladner, director; Shannon Marshall, pastor.



VBS participants at Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba

**Tillatoba, Tillatoba:** enrollment of 106, average attendance of 95 children and adults and 30 workers.

**Southside, Greenville:** June 18-22; enrollment, 36; average attendance, 33; two professions of faith; canned goods were collected for the ministry at the Lighthouse Lodge, a facility that houses families with relatives in the burn center.



VBS participants at Southside Church, Greenville



VBS participants at Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville

### CLASSIFIED ADS

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**WE SPECIALIZE IN VANS** Featuring 6 to 15 passenger vans, customized and panel vans. Daily and weekly rates. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

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**NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC.** Old Bibles rebound. Also church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743. Located at 107 North Stone Avenue, Greenwood, MS 38930.

**HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS,** Meridian. Design, Fabrication, Repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

**PARADISE LANES:** Mississippi's smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-ins, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS, (601) 372-7700.

**ECONOMY PASSION PLAY PACKAGE FOR GROUPS.** Tickets, lodging, and meals, all for just \$36 at Keller's Country Dorm Resort, Eureka Springs, Ark. Call (800) 859-8952.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Shades Crest Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL, is searching for an experienced person to coordinate our music ministry. We are a congregation of 1,500 members, affiliated with both the CBF and SBC. Send resumes to Minister of Music Search Committee, Shades Crest Baptist Church, 452 Park Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35226; call (205) 822-1360; or e-mail our pastor, Dr. Dennis Foust at dfoust@shadescrest.org.

**FOREST HILL BAPTIST CHURCH,** Germantown, TN is accepting resumes for senior pastor. All resumes should be sent to FHBC Pastor Search Committee, 3645 Forest Hill Irene Road, Germantown, TN 38138. Resumes accepted through the month of August.

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY** Free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED FOR** growing church in northwest Alabama. Resumes accepted through August 31 at FBC, P.O. Box 236, Killen, AL 35645, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**LEARN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE.** View, print, or download the 24 page e-book: [www.goldenkeys.com](http://www.goldenkeys.com).

### LIFEWAY'S EXCLUSIVE BUS SOURCE

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- 2/1 Seating with Bucket Seats
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2001 Model: \$36,900 (new)

2000 Model: \$35,000 (new)

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"Nation's #1 church bus dealer"



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 23, 2001

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## SENIORS

### State Senior Rally

Thursday, August 30

Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison (601-898-2345)  
Cost - \$1 at the door 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Speakers: Calvin Miller, Bill Causey and Gene Rester  
Music by "Sweet Adelines"

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

#### 9:00 a.m. Conferences

- Leadership: Dennis Daniels, Jackson
- Ways of God: Bill Causey, Jackson
- A Happy Heart (humor): Gene Rester, Jackson



Calvin Miller

10:00 Break (refreshments provided by Baptist Foundation)

#### 10:30 Rally

Special Music: "Sweet Adelines," Jackson  
Guest Speaker: Calvin Miller, Trussville, Ala.  
Miller is a professor at Beeson Divinity School, Sanford University, Birmingham. He is also a poet, humorist, motivator and author.

### State Senior Adult Leadership Lab

(open to ministers, officers, Sunday School teachers)

November 1-2, 2001

(registration 1:30 p.m., 11/1, adjourn 1:00 p.m., 11/2)

Camp Garaywa, Clinton (601-924-5062)

Cost: \$65 (meals and lodging) OR \$10 for Friday events with lunch only OR \$5 for workshops only (no meals or lodging)

Speakers: Bobby Shows, Dennis Daniels, Janie Walters and Horace Kerr. Music by R.L. and Beth Sigrest



Bobby Shows

### Registration: State Senior Leadership Lab

Registration Deadline: October 29, 2001

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$65 - includes registration, three meals and one night's lodging OR \$10 for Friday events and lunch only OR \$5 for workshops (no lodging or meals).

Make checks payable to MBCB and mail to: Glenn Shows,  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530

Contact Glenn Shows at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800.

## JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINIC

First Baptist Church  
Jackson

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

The clinic begins at 9 a.m. with refreshments and will conclude at 3 p.m.

A complimentary lunch will be served.

No registration is necessary.

There will be two separate study groups – one for pastors and others who will lead adults in January Bible Study groups and one for youth leaders who will lead youth in JBS groups.

Leader for the adults will be Wayne VanHorn, pastor of First Baptist Church, Columbia.

Theme for the adult study is the book  
*What's Life All About?*

*Foundations for the Biblical Worldview: Genesis 1-12* – Allan Moseley, author.

Leader for the youth will be Daniel Caldwell, dean of the Cooper School of Biblical Studies, William Carey College.

Theme for the youth study is the book *Blueprints: Studies from Genesis* – Kim Henderson, author.

Sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

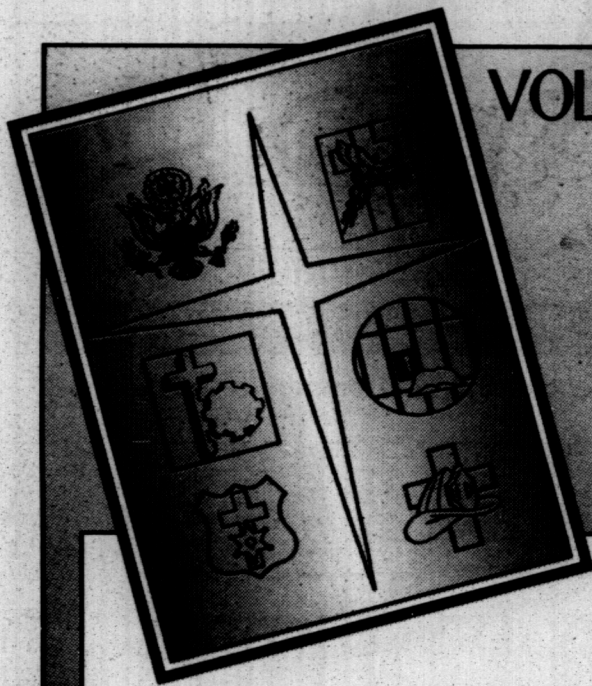
For more information, contact us at 1-800-748-1651

or (601) 968-3800 in Jackson,

or by fax at (601) 714-7430,

or on the internet at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org).





## VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINS TRAINING FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY IN... Crisis Intervention, Corrections, and Geriatrics Ministry

**September 21, 2001 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Building  
515 Mississippi Street, Jackson

### TRAINING SESSIONS AND LEADERS

Opening session for all participants

**"What Every Chaplain Needs to Know" led by Gary Strehlow and Dexter Ware**

Topics include: Ethical and Legal Issues, Importance of Referrals, Difference Between Religion and Spirituality, Uniqueness of Chaplaincy Ministry

#### • CRISIS INTERVENTION

**Joe V. Young**

A time of crisis offers unique opportunities to provide pastoral care to the patient, family members and attending staff. This study provides help for chaplains who serve those affected by crisis.

#### • CORRECTIONS

**Charles Jones and Neron Smith**

An introduction to volunteer ministry to those incarcerated in city, county, and state correctional facilities.

#### • GERIATRICS MINISTRY

**Marty Harper and Don Nerren**

An introduction to ministering to the special needs of the elderly population.

Participant will select one of the focus areas and attend a total of five hours training in that area. This training is open to all ministers and laypersons who wish to improve their ministry skills in one of these areas.

#### REGISTRATION FORM: VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINS TRAINING FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY

September 21, 2001

Registration fee of \$5 per person enclosed (includes lunch and materials)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please register by September 14, 2001

Mail to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Ed Deuschle, Chaplaincy

P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

I will attend the following session:

(circle one)

Crisis Intervention Ministry

Corrections

Geriatrics Ministry

For more information, call Linda McComb, 601-984-2121 or Elaine Smith, 1-800-748-1651 or

E-mail Elaine at [esmith@mbcb.org](mailto:esmith@mbcb.org)

Sponsored by

Strategic Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and  
Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association

### Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants and Ministry Office SkillShops



**Professional Certification**  
Jane Barrett

**Ministry Office SkillShops**  
Jenell Miller



Sponsored by the MBCB Church Administration-Pastoral  
Ministries Department

September 11-15, 2001  
Camp Grayson, Clinton

For more info, call Kay McDonnell at 601-968-3800 (Jackson) or  
1-800-748-1651 or E-mail at [kmcdonnell@mbcb.org](mailto:kmcdonnell@mbcb.org)



# Who Says a Small Package Doesn't Pack a Lot of Power?

There is a lot of  
power in the  
smaller church  
Sunday School.



Smaller Church  
Sunday School  
Workshops  
October 9 & 16

October 9, 2001 • 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. October 16, 2001 • 2-4 p.m.

## "POPS" and ME Day

PARENTS of PRESCHOOLERS and ME  
Age 3 (by Sept. 1, 2001) through Pre-First

SEPTEMBER 8

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Camp Garaywa, Clinton

Cost: \$5 (includes lunch)

Bring your parents, teachers, caregivers and come join us  
for crafts, music and time with a missionary!

"POPS" and ME Day

Registration Form (deadline August 24)

Please print or type

Parent'(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Total No. of participants \_\_\_\_ x \$5 = \_\_\_\_ total amt. enclosed

Mail form & check to: WMU, "POPS" and ME Day, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205  
For info call: Debbie Sills (601)292-3320 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651

## 2002 State Handbell Festival Music

Music may be purchased from  
Christian Music Resources, Inc.



### Young Ringers' Festival Music, March 23 Park Place Baptist Church, Brandon

Choirs will purchase all four numbers for the festival.

"A Festival Peal" Leavitt #2163, Agape  
"Awesome God and Almighty" Mullins/Watson/arr. Cota #2190, Agape  
"Praise the Father" Witt/arr. Page AP 19647, Alfred  
"Song of Creation" Hakes #20/1210L, Lorenz

### State Handbell Festival Music Gulfshore, April 19-20 Mississippi College, April 26-27

Each choir will select music from Group I, beginning and  
inexperienced choirs; or Group II, experienced and advanced choirs.  
All choirs will ring the combination numbers.

#### Group I

"How Great Thou Art" Hine/arr. Helman AP 19641, Alfred  
"Near the Cross" Doane/Dobrinski #2177, Agape

#### Group II

"Processional" Sherman #2195, Agape  
"Ride the Chariot" Traditional/Page AP19649, Alfred

#### Combined

"Cares Chorus with He is Able" arr. Bettcher 2186, Agape  
"Were You There?" Linker/McFadden #20/1207L, Lorenz

For more information please contact the MCB Music Department at  
601-968-3800 (Jackson) or 1-800-748-1651



Pray this day for...

August 24 - September 6, 2001

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"In prayer a man kneels before God that he may stand erect in the face of men. In prayer a man enters heaven that he may face the battles of earth."

The Daily Bible Study by William Barclay

Pray for the Holy Spirit to overcome the intense anti-Christian indoctrination received by the People's Liberation Army soldiers stationed in Hubei Province of China.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING LAUNCH DAY (D&FM) Praise God that Andy Caperton has returned to Chile as a career missionary to the Mapuches, with whom he worked for two years as an ISC worker with the IMB.

Pray for the "Mobile Out of School Training" staff and team of the Urban Poor Team's ministry in the Philippines. They go into different areas to teach job skill training. Many are coming to know the Lord through this program as well as learning a skill.

Labor Day - Pray that the country's working people will be honored on this day. Also pray that it can be a day of rest and recreation for those who work so faithfully for the good of our country.

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Meeting, Baptist Building; (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting; Central Hills Retreat; (3) Dedication of the William "Bill" Causey Missions Activity Center; Central Hills Retreat.

Missionaries among the Fulani of Western Niger recently received funding to meet some vital human needs—fruit trees which the people will plant, and grain to the villages. Pray that the people will realize that this is God's love and will turn to Christ.

Ellen Chapman is a Housing coordinator for Concord Baptist Association in Murfreesboro, Tenn. The association has property. Pray for funds and volunteers to build a center to house a food pantry, a closet, medical center, and counseling services for the hungry and hurting.

(1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS 5-7: Pray for the staff as they seek to catch up on office work. (2) Praise God that another much needed physician has applied for career missions at the Baptist Medical Centre in Nalerigu, Ghana. Pray for God's will in this.

For: (1) State Senior Adult Rally, Broadmoor BC, Madison (D&FM); (2) In Southern Africa for missionary personnel all across the area, especially on the island of Madagascar and Mozambique. The times are urgent due to flooding and disease.

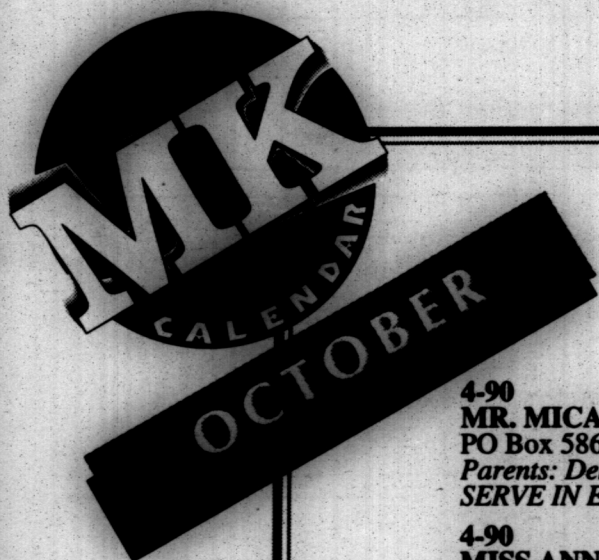
Abandoned babies in China are common since the inception of the one-child policy. Pray for these orphans, asking the Father to provide loving families and for a way for each of these orphans to be adopted into His family as they hear of Jesus' saving grace and believe.

For: (1) "The Titus 2 Women-Mentoring Retreat," Gulfshore Assembly, 24-25, (WMU); (2) The protection and release of the 24 staff of a Christian aid organization arrested and held captive in Afghanistan. They face death under Sharia Law for trying to lead Afghans to Christ.

Over 50 percent of the population of Tanzania is under the age of 15. Continue praying for the efforts of those who are trying to reach this under-15 age group. Pray that God will show the missionaries serving in the city of Arusha where they need to start a church.

For: (1) Super Saturday: Sunday School Leadership Training, FBC, Grenada; Main Street BC, Hattiesburg (SS); (2) On Oct. 14, the Dalit population of India (250 million) plan to seek liberation and dignity in other faiths than Hindu. Pray for many to turn to Christianity.

SEPTEMBER IS THE SEASON OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS (WMU) Encourage people in your church to support Miss. State Missions with their prayers and giving; (2) Please pray for President Jerry John Rawlings of Ghana (Western Africa).



Please take a moment to read these profiles to encourage the children of our missionaries!

4-90  
MR. MICAH S. MCCALL  
PO Box 5864 Targa, Tanzania  
Parents: Dennis & Margaret, Agriculture  
SERVE IN EASTERN AFRICA

4-90  
MISS ANN MARIE PEVEY  
2700 Stingray Ct., Richmond, VA 23233-3391  
Parents: Frank, Jr., & Jerry Anne, Richmond Associate  
SERVE IN EASTERN AFRICA

5-86  
MISS JESSICA L. BAKER  
10481 County Road 136, Live Oak, FL 32060  
Parents: Kenneth & Lynn, Dentistry,  
SERVE IN MIDDLE AMERICA

6-94  
MR. ADAM S. CROCKER  
Casilla 3168, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA  
Parents: George & Ginger, Sports Evangelism  
SERVE IN WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA

8-90  
MISS MELISSA K. SHEARER  
12 Crosswoods Rd., Brandon, MS 39042  
Parents: Keven and Pamela, Strategy  
SERVE IN WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA

9-98  
MR. MADISON H. CROCKER  
Casilla 3168, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA  
Parents: George & Ginger, Sports Evangelism  
SERVE IN WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA

14-83  
MISS VICTORIA L. HARRISON  
Apartado 373, San Pedro Sula, HONDURAS  
Parents: Frank & Phoebe, Student Evangelism  
SERVE IN MIDDLE AMERICA

19-79  
MR. JOHN M. VAUGHN  
OBU Box 4274, Arkadelphia, AR 71998  
Parents: John and Judy, Evangelism  
SERVE IN EASTERN SOUTH AMERICA

19-95  
MISS MELODY BAILEY  
506 S. West St., Ripley, MS 38663  
Parents: Alvin & Elizabeth, Music Ministry  
SERVE IN MIDDLE AMERICA

27-83  
MISS HANNAH M. GRAY  
Rua Professor Manuel Ferreira, 171 Apt 1108 Gavea 22451-030  
Rio de Janeiro/RJ, BRAZIL  
Parents: Tony & Karen, Church Planting  
SERVE IN EASTERN SOUTH AMERICA

28-88  
MISS CHELSEA L. FUNDERBURK  
01 B.P. 6491, Abidjan 01, COTE D'IVOIRE (IVORY COAST)  
Parents: Rickey & Lori, Administrative Associate  
SERVE IN WEST AFRICA

29-85  
MR. TRAVIS RACEY  
2415 Carter Road, Biloxi, MS 39532  
Parents: Michael & Annette, General Evangelism  
SERVE IN WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA

31-80  
MISS GINNY R. THOMAS  
P.O. Box 4894, Clinton, MS 39058  
Parents: Robert & Beverly Thomas, Nursing Education  
SERVE IN NORTHERN AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

HOUSE TOPS.



# BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

**The Mississippi College School of Law** named J. Larry Lee of Jackson, interim dean on Aug. 1. Lee has been a faculty member since 1976 and has taught as a full professor since 1979. A native of Jackson, Lee received his undergraduate degree from Mississippi College, and received his L.L.M. in Taxation from New York University.



Lee

**The Office of Continuing Education** at Mississippi College is offering Personal Security and Safety, a course designed to instill in each participant a heightened sense of awareness with emphasis directed toward breaking unsafe habits and replacing them with proven safety techniques. Information on home, telephone, automobile, and

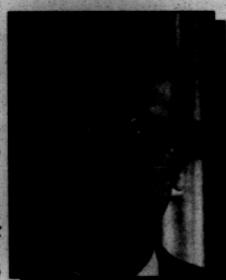
physical security, plus self defense techniques, personal protection devices, and travel safety will be given. Classes will meet on Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Sept. 4-25. Cost is \$60. For more information, call (601) 925-3265.

**Mississippi College (MC)** will welcome first time and returning students with special events during the week of Aug. 25 to Sept. 1. Saturday, freshmen will begin moving into the dorms at 7 a.m. and will meet in Alumni Hall at 3:30 p.m. Students transferring to MC from another college will move in beginning at 1:30 p.m. Monday at 8 a.m., orientation, advising, and registration for all new students who did not pre-register will be held in the Grand Hall of BC Rogers Student Center. Transfer students who did not attend summer orientation may take the writing proficiency exam at 1:30 p.m. in Self Hall. Monday evening, night classes begin. All classes will begin on

Wednesday. Class schedules can be changed on this date. For additional information, call MC at (601) 925-3000.

**Commencement ceremonies** closing the 175th academic session at Mississippi College (MC) were held Saturday, Aug. 4, in A. E. Wood Coliseum on the Clinton campus. Degrees were conferred by Lloyd E. Roberts, interim president, on 140 candidates. Carolyn Shanks, president and CEO of Entergy, Mississippi, gave the commencement address. Ivan Parke, assistant professor of Christian Studies, presented the invocation. Danny Rutland, vice president for advancement, gave the benediction.

**Hubert L. Keasler Jr.** has been appointed dean of the School of Business at William Carey College, effective Aug. 15. Keasler, a native of Pickens County, Ala., joined the



Keasler

faculty as an associate professor in August 1999 and was appointed interim dean in August 2000. He received his education at Mississippi State University. Prior to going to Carey, Keasler was employed by Mississippi State University; Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas; and the University of Southern Mississippi.

**The Image**, a photography exhibit by Howard York, a

native of Hattiesburg, will be held at William Carey College in the Lucile Parker Gallery. The exhibit will open with a reception on Aug. 23 from 5-6:30 p.m., and will hang through Oct. 19. The exhibit can be viewed during the regular gallery hours, 1-4 p.m., Monday-Friday, except for school holidays. Call (601) 582-6192 for additional information or to schedule special appointments or group tours.

**Jalin Wood**, a student at Mississippi College, was crowned Mississippi Miss Hospitality on July 28. A member of Calvary Church, Waynesboro, she is the daughter of A. E. Wood III and Paula Cooper Wood of Waynesboro.

**The Mississippi College (MC) Office of Continuing Education** will offer the LSAT Review Course for the Oct. 6 test date. The review will cost \$195, which includes two LSAT exams with answers and explanations for each section.

This course schedule is Sept. 27, 6-10 p.m.; Sept. 29, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Oct. 2, 6-10 p.m.; and Oct. 4, 6-10 p.m. The registration deadline is Sept. 21. MC is also offering a course to assist individuals who are preparing to take the GRE Admissions Test. The course which offers 16 instructional hours of review is scheduled to be held from 6-10 p.m. on Sept. 4, 11, 13, and 18. The review cost is \$195. For more information, call Carole Moore in the Office of Continuing Education at (601) 925-3265, or e-mail at continuing-ed@mc.edu.

## HOMEcomings

**Pilgrims Rest, Batesville:** Sept. 2; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; and musical guests New Spirit at 1:30 p.m.; Billy Credille, guest speaker; Wes Sherman, pastor.

**Lula (Madison):** 100th anniversary; Sept. 9; 10:30 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon; fellowship until 2 p.m.; Joe Little,

interim pastor; Brad Griffin, music; J. C. Renfroe and the Antiques, musical guest.

**New Hope, Tupelo:** Aug. 26; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; noon meal; Lowell Johnson, pastor, speaker; Jeff Chamblee, music.

**Furrs, Pontotoc:** Sept. 9; service, 10 a.m. with Walk by Faith, musical guest; Greg Herndon, former pastor, speaker; and covered dish meal following services.

## MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**CHURCH AVERAGING 100** in Sunday School seeks full-time associate pastor/minister of music and youth. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.

**PART-TIME YOUTH/MUSIC MINISTER** in Neshoba county. Send resumes to Beatline Baptist Church, Search Committee, 12345 Road 505, Philadelphia, MS 39350. Daytime (601) 656-3653; leave message.

**PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER**, Lincoln County; send resume to: Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Attn: Susan David or Bro. Danny Moss, 814 Marwood Loop S/E, Bogue Chitto, MS 39629; or phone Danny Moss at (601) 833-8858 or Susan Davis at (601) 734-3915.

**FULL-TIME MINISTER OF PRESCHOOL** for First Baptist Church, Madison. Send resume to P.O. Box 400, Madison, MS 39130, ATTN: Terry; or e-mail tmarinaz@fbcmadison.org.

**WORSHIP MINISTRY SECRETARY NEEDED.** Applications are being accepted for full-time position at Broadmoor Baptist Church. If you are interested, contact Worship Ministry office at (601) 898-4932 or fax (601) 898-4888.

**NURSERY WORKER NEEDED.** References required. Please send resume along with references to: Personnel Committee, Flowood Baptist Church, 1649 Old Fannin Road, Brandon, MS 39047.

## REVIVAL DATES

**Carson Church, Carson:** Aug. 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Charles Case, Mendenhall, guest speaker; Mike Sellers, Magee, music; Jimmy Sellers, pastor.

**Bunker Hill, Columbia:** Sept. 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.;

James Messer, Theodore, Ala., evangelist; Dudley Williamson, Bunker Hill Church, music; Jim Ray, pastor.

**Tangipahoa, Summit:** Aug. 26-29; 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, McComb, evangelist; Mark Brown, McComb, music; Troy Mercer, pastor.

**Tomnolen (Webster):** Aug. 26-29; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Bill Baker, Ripley, evangelist; J. B. Rowe, pastor.

**Emmanuel, Laurel:** Aug. 26-29; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; discipleship training, 5 p.m.; worship, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; G. A. McCoy, evangelist; Glenn Padgett, music; Bill Riley, pastor.

**Steep Hollow, Poplarville:** Sept. 2-5; Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Morris L. Anderson, Pigeon Forge, Tenn., evangelist; Steve Walker, music; Shannon Marshall, pastor.

**Liberty, Liberty:** Sept. 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and complimentary lunch in fellowship hall, and 7 p.m.; Clarence Cooper, Grenada, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Agricola, music; Martin Hayden, pastor.

*The First Baptist Church of Leland, MS is making available a series of sermons delivered by Jon Doler on the subject of grief.*

*Sermon titles are:*

- ◆ When Death Becomes A Friend
- ◆ This is The Day the Lord Hath Made
- ◆ Don't Go to Sleep When Your Friends are Hurting
- ◆ Lord, Take My Life.
- ◆ May God's Will Be Done
- ◆ When Life is A Gift
- ◆ The Sufferings of This Present Hour
- ◆ Thou Shalt Not Steal My Grief

*These sermons were preached by Doler following the 11-year illness and death of his wife, Scotti. These eight sermons on tape are available from the church for \$20.00.*

*You may order by mail PBC Leland, P.O. Box 286, Leland, MS 38756, by phone (662) 686-7357 or by e-mail fbcl@bellsouth.net.*

## Staff changes

**Goss Church, Columbia,** has called **Mark McArthur** as pastor. He has served at Goss Church for 16 years as minister of music and youth.

**John Alumbaugh** has resigned after 10 years as minister of music at Forest Church, Forest, to enter private business. He is available for supply or interim work, and may be reached at (601) 469-5419.

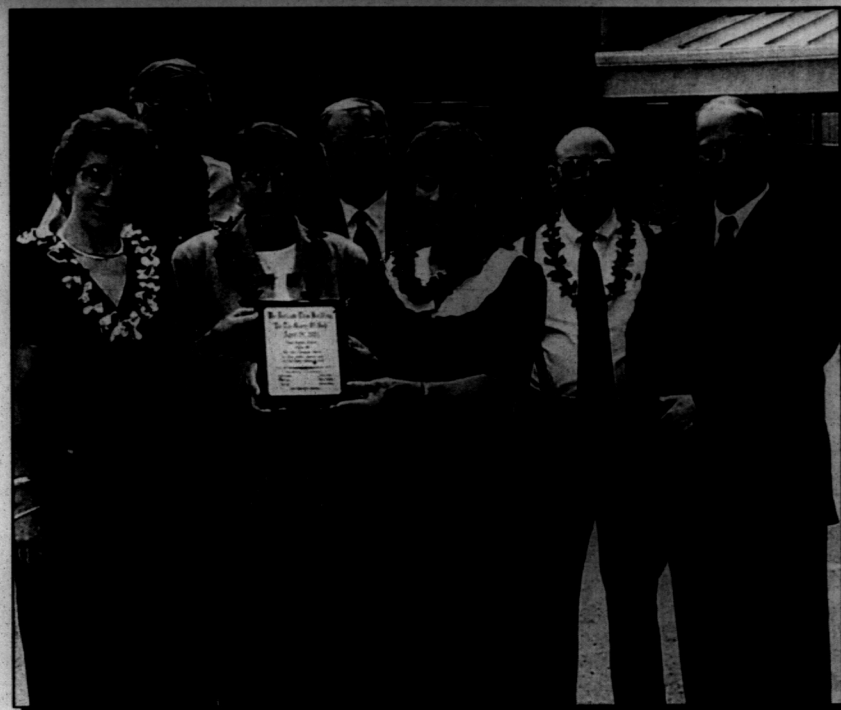
**Robinson Road Church, Gulfport,** has called **Jeff Rimes** as part of the staff specializing in evangelism and outreach. A native of Pascagoula, he has worked in missions through the North American Mission Board and served churches in Mississippi and Louisiana. He received his education from William Carey College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. Rimes is available for pulpit supply and can be reached through the church office at (228) 832-9695.





Backyard Bible School held by Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville

The dedication of the new facility at Camp Ground Church, Water Valley, will be held on Aug. 26. The dedication ceremony and accompanying celebration will consist of the following: dedication service, 10:30 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall, noon; and recognition and open house, 1-3 p.m. For additional information, contact Charles Dennis at (662) 473-3197.



Members of First Church, Nesbit

Members of First Church, Nesbit, display a plaque that was part of the dedication of their new multi-purpose facility at the church's complex on Highway 51 North in Nesbit. The new building includes a stage, full basketball court, game room, and complete kitchen facilities.

On hand for the dedication were building committee members (from left) Nina Jolly, Bob Green, Evelyn Bearden, Bob Black, Mildred Young, Wayne Shelton, and pastor Kirt Germany. Building committee chairman Paul Wadsworth was not available for the photograph.

## CBF personnel evacuate from Macedonia

ATLANTA (ABP) — Six overseas workers for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) have arrived safely in Greece after their evacuation from Macedonia, after warnings that violence might spread into and around the capital city of Skopje.

One of the CBF workers, Rick Shaw, said the six hope their stay in Greece will be brief, but he admitted that a return to Macedonia depends largely on response to a peace agreement signed Aug. 13.

The conflict began in February when ethnic Albanian rebels armed themselves saying they wanted greater rights for ethnic Albanians, who make up about a third of the country's population of 2 million. The Macedonian government says the rebels want only to seize territory.

The three CBF couples evacuating Macedonia are Arville and Shelia Earl, Darrell and Kathy Smith, and Martha and Rick Shaw.

Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville, held Backyard Bible School at the home of Ruth and Richard Russ of Kiln, July 9-13. Fifty-two children were enrolled and an average of 35 attended.

The sanctuary choir of Castlewoods Church, Brandon, will be in concert Sunday, Aug. 26, at 6 p.m. Marty Parks of Jackson will be leading the choir. For more information, call the church at (601) 992-9977.



2001 France PrayerWalk team

The 2001 France PrayerWalk team from Lafayette/Marshall Association have returned from Thionville, France. They worked with Mike and Pam Jones, missionaries to France. The team (pictured) consisted of Don and Doris Stanfill; Lucy Hasselman; Amy Stanfill; Bill Jenkins; Allen Jenkins; and Jessa Pruett, Janet Case, and Stacy Sargent, BSU summer missionaries.

Several youth and adults from Antioch Church, Brandon, recently returned from Montana, where they were a part of the Northwest Mission group. The Vacation Bible School at Big Horn Church, Fort Smith, Montana, averaged 30 children in attendance. Mac Cole is pastor of Big Horn Church.

GAs of New Hope Church, Starkville, recently spent a week at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. Pictured (from left) are Kathryn Moore, Alex McNair, Morgan Armstrong, and Elizabeth Painter. GA leader is Lisa Painter. Eddie Painter is pastor.



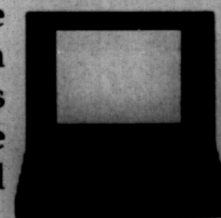
GAs of New Hope Church, Starkville

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# Watchdog: TV 'family hour' bad to worse

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — Violence, vulgarity, and profanity are more prominently displayed on television's family hour than ever before, according to TV watchdog Parents' Television Council (PTC).

PTC's president and founder, L. Brent Bozell, was joined by U.S. Senators Joseph Lieberman and Sam Brownback in criticizing the amount of "foul language," sex, and graphic violence that have increased since the last family hour study was conducted for the 1998-99 season.

"The family hour has historically offered a safe haven for families — a time where parents knew that it was alright to allow their children to watch television," Brownback said.

"The family hour is on a death watch. In the last several years, the amount of violence, vulgarity, and profanity in supposedly family hour programming has skyrocketed," he added.

Lieberman, a longtime critic of the entertainment industry who seemed to back off his criticism while he was a vice-presidential candidate last year, echoed Brownback's remarks.

"The report being released by the PTC today reminds us that what was once a safe haven is increasingly turning into a danger zone for America's children, with more than 10 million kids watching during the first hour of prime time," Lieberman said.

"Overall, [there are] too many messages that reject rather than reflect the basic values that most parents are trying to instill, messages that are clearly inappropriate for children and that may well be harmful to their development and our moral health as a nation," he pointed out.

The PTC report indicates that sexual material has fallen 17% since the last study to 3.1 instances per hour, but sexual topics such as oral sex and

pornography, which were virtually absent from television a decade ago are now becoming commonplace in the family hour.

The report also showed that foul language increased by 78% from the previous study and the rate of offensive violence in family hour programming jumped 70%.

"You have to ask, how worse can it get?" Brownback said. "The losers here are America's families and America's children."

According to the Television Bureau of Advertising, the average child watches more than three hours of television a day.

"One of those hours is usually the family hour," he said. "By the time the child has reached the age of 18, he or she has seen 13,000 killings and 100,000 violent acts."

Brownback asserted that hundreds of studies have shown that what people watch on television has an impact on their thoughts and actions, which he said he finds frightening.

The UPN network tops the list in terms of the amount of broadcast material the PTC considers offensive, while CBS produces the least amount.

The report claims that UPN had 18.1 instances per hour of offensive content, followed by NBC with 9.1, Fox with 7.5, WB with 7.5, ABC with 6.7, and CBS with 3.2 instances per hour of offensive conduct.

Brownback and Lieberman both renewed their pleas for the networks to tone down their content during the 8 o'clock hour.

"We are not asking the networks to whitewash their entire slate of programming, but to just restore a safe haven for children on television," Lieberman said. "We're asking them to desecrate the family hour."

Brownback reminded the networks of their responsibility, saying, "TV is the chief purveyor of our nation's stories."

"The content of those stories, and the quality of those programs, helps shape the imagination, attitudes, and assumptions of the next generation," he said. "It is a tremendous power, and one that ought to be exercised responsibly."

Lieberman and Bozell said previous efforts to get the networks to police themselves with a ratings system had failed.

They indicated that the networks had instead abused the ratings system to produce even more shows with content they found objectionable.

"These are the public airwaves. These are owned by us; not... Hollywood," Bozell said. "Hollywood is a guest in the home."

Bozell also noted, "It is only within the last few years that Hollywood has taken the attitude that they don't care what the message is that children get."

Lieberman said he believes that cleaning up television's family hour needs to be balanced with a devotion to the First Amendment.

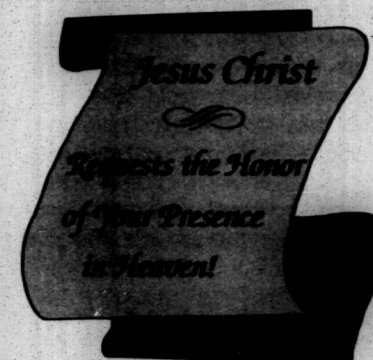
"In your quest for ever better quality, you can draw some lines," Lieberman said.

He hinted that a law exists that has been invoked in the past to block offensive language in radio and could be invoked against television by the Federal Communications Commission.

UPN responded to the PTC in a statement saying, "At UPN, we strongly believe in the viewers' right to make an informed choice about what they watch, which is why we voluntarily and clearly label every UPN program with a content rating."

NBC said in a statement, "All NBC programming is reviewed by our Standards and Practices department and on-screen ratings are provided at the beginning of each show, allowing parents to make an informed choice for their family."

Representatives of FOX, ABC, CBS and WB had no comment on the PTC report.



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(*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
(*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.  
(*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

*But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).*

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# American couple to tackle Welsh mission

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Douglas and Jonelle Yates' backyard at their Welsh residence had become a wall of wool. A bevy of bleating sheep had broken out of their pen and taken refuge behind the Yateses' house.

While Douglas attempted his best impression of a Welsh shepherd, he prayed the owners would show up soon.

The American couple had learned a lot of missionary skills at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., but herding was not one of them.

"I had to herd them into a corner and wait for their owner to arrive and put them back into their field," said Douglas, a 2000 master of divinity graduate.

According to the Yateses, the fluffy farm animals that loitered in their lot are not the only lost sheep in Wales.

Located on the west coast of Great Britain, Wales has a rich Christian history but, just as their English cousins, the Welsh people have fallen from their first love.

"Only three percent of the population of Wales truly consider themselves followers of Christ, with only 60% of those considering themselves to be conservative and evangelical in their theology," Douglas said.

It is this dearth of gospel witness that initially drew Douglas and Jonelle to the his-

toric and picturesque nation. "Seeing the spiritual condition of the body of Christ here has confirmed our call to missions," Douglas said.

"Knowing that most of the Welsh need to hear the gospel gives us the desire to stay here and proclaim Christ to the lost," he said.

The Yateses, who have been in the country for six months, currently serve with the CeLT Team (Celtic Language Team) of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's BIIP (British Island Indigenous People) Cluster.

The team's role is to proclaim the gospel principally to those people who speak a Celtic language — Welsh, Brezhoneg (in France), Cornish, Manx, Irish Gaelic, and Scottish Gaelic.

In particular, the Yateses have a heart for those in that nationalistic and independent country who speak Welsh.

Of course, this ministry requires that the Yateses learn the language, a complex and completely foreign tongue despite the country's proximity to England.

"Our past six months have been wonderful but difficult at the same time," Douglas said. "We have both enjoyed our language training."



The Yates

"The Welsh language is hard to get a handle on sometimes, but it is also very rhythmic and musical."

Having completed their three months of language training, Douglas and Jonelle will soon move to South Wales. There they will continue working on learning the language, and in June, Douglas will start training for his position on the team.

For the CeLT Team, Douglas will serve as the prayer coordinator and volunteer coordinator. He will send out regular prayer updates via letters, e-mails, and pamphlets.

He also will facilitate short-term mission trips from the States.

The Yateses, both with a great sense of urgency for the nation, can't wait to get started in their new roles. The country has seen a staggering religious downgrade in the last 100 years, Douglas explained.

The Welsh refer to "church" as "chapel" because the Anglican church is called the "church" there.

"The Gospel message was no longer the central focus of the body of Christ," Douglas said. "The social gospel became the message of the day, and still is to many dying chapels."

"At this point the chapels had left their first love. The result of this loss of the Gospel today is a next-to-nonexistent true Christian presence, reminiscent to what one reads from Revelation 2," he said.

Anyone interested in serving as a prayer partner with Douglas and Jonelle may e-mail them at [dojoyates@netzero.net](mailto:dojoyates@netzero.net).

Also, the Yateses have a website for the CeLT Team at [www.peopleteams.org](http://www.peopleteams.org).

## Women's meet scheduled for Sept. 19-21

HOUSTON (BP) — The registration fee for the Global Celebration for Women will increase Sept. 1 to \$145 per person. Prior to then, the fee for the event, scheduled Sept. 19-21 at the Reliant Park Astrodome in Houston, is \$125.

The three-day conference features six worship sessions, 40 workshops, a Christian shopping mall, and the opportunity to network with women from around the globe.

Keynote speakers for the event are Anne Graham Lotz and Elizabeth Dole. Contemporary Christian singer Alicia Williamson is the worship leader for the celebration.

Among the workshop leaders will be speaker and author Beth Moore who will lead a session on women in the Bible in the main arena of the Astrodome on Thursday afternoon.

The event is sponsored by more than a dozen international women's organizations including Aglow International; Campus Crusade for Christ Women Today; The Salvation Army Women's Organization; World Evangelical Fellowship's Commission on Women's Concerns; and Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention.

For more information, call (888) 611-1441, visit [www.globalcelebration.org](http://www.globalcelebration.org). E-e-mail [WIT270@light-speed.net](mailto:WIT270@light-speed.net). To register, call (888) 251-9080 or (770) 251-8119 or visit [www.globalcelebration.org](http://www.globalcelebration.org).

## Gospel Music Convention result of Scots' visions

FRASERBURGH, Scotland (BP) — A group of seven laymen from all walks of life and varying denominations believed that Scotland's Gospel Music Convention would help their countrymen tune in to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Alex Duthie of the village of Boddam was among the first to have a vision for a Scottish Gospel music fest, held the past three years in Fraserburgh.

"I'm a great fan of gospel music," Duthie recounted. "Several of us had attended the National Quartet Convention in Louisville, Ky., and saw what a grand meeting it was."

"We felt holding a Gospel music convention could help reach this area for Christ, and it has. We give God all the glory."

John Watt, another convention organizer, concurred. "We wanted to introduce the people here to Christ. I love music and I believed this was a way of spreading the Gospel."

The men formed the Gospel Music Convention (GMC), a week of preaching, music, and joy in the Lord. This year's gathering brought artists from several countries, including the United States.

Clifton Jansky, whose Texas sound hit the top of this year's Christian Country charts with Heart Transplant, gained hundreds of new fans after his appearance at the GMC.

"The people were so genuine," Jansky said. "My testimony is in my songs, but I also

like to share the whole story of where Jesus Christ has brought me from."

"A full year of prayer and preparation brought Clifton and these others here," Duthie said, "and God has blessed and used them."

In addition to the singing and preaching events at Fraserburgh's Leisure Centre, times of prayer were slated and teaching sessions focused on such topics as How to Share Your Faith led by Gary Maroney, an evangelist with God-Bold in San Marcos, Texas.

A simultaneous children's program also was part of this spring's three-day convention, while a huge crowd of teens and young adults gathered over at the city's seaside fish market to hear contemporary Christian music and more preaching from Maroney.

"We even got to go into the prison in Peterhead," Jansky interjected. "Ordinarily, getting permission to do this is a long process, but God opened that door at a moment's notice."

"One of the prisoners had heard me speaking on the radio here and he began to pray for God to send me to the prison. Seven men prayed to receive Christ!"

For the Regents Quartet of Jacksonville, Fla., all members of First Church there, the convention provided their first visit to Scotland.

"One of the committee members bought our CD in a book-

store in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.," said Jeff Weeks, the group's tenor. "Next thing we know we're invited to Scotland! This has been an incredible privilege."

Among those pulling double duty at the convention and the youth sessions were Reggie and Ladye Love Smith, who attend Nashville's Bellevue Community Church.

They brought along a band of talented musicians who stirred the Scottish audience to their feet in celebrating the good news via music.

"The people of Scotland have a great love for gospel music," Ladye Smith said.

"Reggie and I have been on some of the Gaither videos and many of the Scots knew us from those."

"We've loved meeting the people, coming to their country. I know God is using the GMC to make a tremendous impact on this area," she said.

Pastor John Clunas of Peterhead Church was overjoyed at the response to the GMC.

"What a joy when we can gather together and share the love of Christ!" he exclaimed.



WHEN IN SCOTLAND — Texas gospel music artist Clifton Jansky debuts his cowboy kilt at Scotland's Gospel Music Convention. (Photo by Larry W. Bates)



# FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

## The mind of Christ

Philippians 2:1-11

By Kathy Mord Alford

"Love God and do as you like" is how one theologian summed up the Christian life, knowing that, if we love God, we will want to do only those things that please him. Psalm 37:4 reads: Delight yourself in the Lord; and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Loving, doing, and delighting become, for the Christian, a state of being or an attitude. It's the mind of Jesus. His lavish love for God the Father determined what he did two thousand years ago; his delight was to please his father.

So the Son of God came from an exalted throne to a paltry cave; from luxurious robes to a coarse cloak; from reigning in omnipresence and omnipotence

with the King of the universe to walking rutted roads with peasants; from commanding legions of angels to washing his betrayer's filthy feet. It was his choice, because he loves his father. He wants to teach us that same love.

First John 4:16 tells us that God is love. Therefore, we can conclude that any attitude or action that is not godly does not have love as its source or motive.

Our goal as believers is to grow more like God — to think God-thoughts. Doing three things will lead us to know God's nature: trust steadily in him, hope unswervingly, and love extravagantly. The best of the three is love. Go after a life of love as if our lives depend on it —

because they do (1 Cor. 13:13-14:1 MSG).

Jesus summarized the law of love: love God with all your being, and love others as you love yourself. In their book, *Love Is Always Right*, Josh McDowell and Norm Geisler suggest how we do this: we make the health, happiness, and

growth of the one we love as important to us as our own. Showing love is always right; not showing love is always wrong.

Jesus modeled his standard for loving in the ways he loved God, himself, and others. Jesus considered his equality to God the Father to be less important than the Father's happiness; hence, Jesus set aside his divinity to obey God's will.

Jesus loved himself by growing in wisdom and stature, by spending time alone in prayer and rest, and by removing himself from temptation. He loved others by teaching them how to know God through his example,

by protecting them from anything that stained and scarred their lives, and by serving them with compassion and humility, things the indwelling Spirit of God does for believers today.

We love God by acknowledging his supreme worth in all we think, say, and do. (Do I "worship" God in spirit and in truth?)

We love ourselves by maturing "spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially; by protecting ourselves from harmful elements; and by accepting the spiritual abilities God has given us and exercising them to the good of the body. That's proper self-love leading to the effective love of others" (McDowell and Geisler). (Do I fill my mind with positive thoughts and wholesome reading and viewing materials? Do I use my spiritual gift of encouragement by affirming others?)

We love people by recognizing their value as persons created in God's image. (Are people inclined more toward godliness

or sin when I interact with them?)

The material world is not to be loved in the same way that we love God or people. Instead, we are stewards of God's creation and use "things" to serve God and others. (Is it more important to me to wash my car than to take my sick neighbor to the doctor?)

When you realize, personally and profoundly, who Love is and that he desires to live through you and in you, you will be delighted in him; and he will give you the desires of your heart.

"At the close of life the question will be not, how much have you got, but how much have you given; not, how much have you won, but how much have you done; not, how much have you saved, but how much have you sacrificed; not, how much were you honored, but how much have you loved and served" (Nathan C. Schaeffer from *Leaves of Gold*).

Alford is a member of First Church, McComb.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Love is the theme

Hosea 14:1-9

By Harold Simmons

Although Hosea is filled with statements of God's judgment, in the last chapter he returns to the theme of God's love. The supreme thought that Hosea has had from beginning to end is of God and his people being together in a loving relationship. This is the good news story in the Old Testament.

**The great refrain (14:1-3).** The song that God sings to his people has as its refrain "return to me" (v. 1). This is the greatest love song ever sung. When the covenant people were out of the parameters that he set for them, God sang the repentance song to them. He spelled out that it was not that he did not love

them as a people, but rather that he did not like their sin. It was their sin that caused the division between them.

The Israelites were encouraged to "take words with them" (v. 2). This was suggestive of having thought about what they were going to say to God in sincere confession. God even suggested appropriate words of confession (v. 2b). The word "graciously" implies that they recognized they did not deserve to be forgiven by him.

The "fruit of our lips" does not mean that the repentance was shallow or hollow, but that verbalizing heartfelt repentance helped make this inner decision firm and real.

Historically, Israel depended upon alliances and their own military might for their physical security. A part of their confession would be to renounce this method of security and depend upon God. They were also to confess that they could find help in God because they were submissive to him with a total commitment to him.

**The great healing (14:4-7).** God promised the same response to the repentant people of Israel that he offers to all who come to him. "I will heal their waywardness" (v. 4). Not only would he heal them as a nation but he would also empower them to live life as he commanded. He offers us his Holy Spirit to live the Christian life today. The process was the same for Israel.

To be loved freely is to be loved in a way that passes understanding. How can God

love a person who has consistently lived in rebellion to him? We can not understand that and must accept by faith that he can and will do just that. He will be like the life-giving dew in a parched land. That little bit of moisture can be the difference between life and death.

The lily has always been a symbol of beauty and purity. The relationship between Israel and God would be beautiful and pure. Not only that, but the relationship would have a lasting security — put down roots. These strong roots would anchor God's people firmly in place. This might be the forerunner of the idea of the security of the believer.

Although olive trees keep their leaves all year, the leaves become tattered and eventually fall. New growth occurs in the spring and that is when the trees are most beautiful. Israel has the "splendor" or beauty of the olive with continual growth.

**Great productivity (14:8-9).** In verse 8, Hosea begins a play on words using the word Ephraim, which means "two fruit land." Israel when redeemed would be a very fruitful (productive) land. Hondurian farmers can grow three crops of corn a year. This is one crop more than we can grow in the United States. Ephraim or Israel would also be green with crops of God's blessings.

God said that he would be "like a green pine tree" (v. 8). The pine tree's greenness is not diminished all year long. The God of Israel would be available to his people in any season.

The words in verse 9 — wise and discerning — show that it is prudent to heed the words of God. It is just not smart to hear what God has to say to us about repentance and then turn a deaf ear. Listen to the God of love and righteousness!

Simmons is pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.



# Palestinians destroy Temple Mount artifacts

WASHINGTON (BP) — A move in Congress is seeking to cut off U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority until it halts destructive excavations of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

The United States is to provide \$125 million in direct aid this year to the P.A. through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). That amount is part of a three-year package of \$400 million appropriated last year by Congress. The United States also gives \$75 million yearly in indirect aid to the PA through USAID.

Cantor provided photographic evidence of massive PA destruction of archeological sites.

Bulldozing of the Temple Mount, including the destruction of antiquities that date back to the time of the first Temple, began in early 1998, Cantor said.

Those antiquities have been dumped in the nearby Kidron Valley and, according to some reports,

sold on the black market, The Jerusalem Post reported.

The excavations have occurred under the authority of Arafat and Mufti Ikrima Sabri, the Muslim administrator of the temple mount site.

Cantor described the excavations as "one of the most unprecedented attacks on reli-

gious heritage of our time. Thousands of years of Judeo-Christian heritage is under siege at this most sacred of sites to Christianity, Judaism, and Islam," Cantor said in introducing his bill July 19.

"Anybody with any reasonable perspective would hold that the Temple Mount should be preserved and any disturbance thereon closely monitored," he said.

The Temple Mount was the site of the temple built by King Solomon and the rebuilt temple that stood during Jesus' earthly ministry. The Dome of the Rock, a Muslim Mosque, is now located on the mount.

The destruction of Temple Mount artifacts apparently is another step by Arafat and the PA to rewrite the history of the Jews as one bereft of any connection to Jerusalem.

In 1998, Sabri declared Jews have no right to the Temple Mount, Cantor said.

Sabri also said recently, "There is not the smallest indication of the existence of a Jewish temple on this place in the past. In the whole city, there is not even a single stone indicating Jewish history," according to a report in the Boston Globe.

Meanwhile, Arafat has barred Jewish and Christian worshipers, as well as the news media, from the mount.

Citing photos provided by the Committee for the Prevention of the Destruction of Antiquities on the Temple Mount, Cantor said the evidence "shows that Arafat is intent on erasing Judeo-Christian connections to the holy site."

Rep. Anthony Weiner, a cosponsor of Cantor's bill, said, "I think it's important that Congress understands that the Palestinians can't be trusted on many levels, not the least of which that they can't be trusted to preserve the important religious sites in Jerusalem."

"I think we need to hold them accountable ...," according to The Jerusalem Post.

Another cosponsor, Rep. Mike Pence, said, according to The Post, "[The U.S. is] a friend of Israel in the Middle East, and this is precisely the moment that a friend and partner writing the checks can speak to the recipient of those checks."

Israel has allowed the Waqf, an Islamic religious council, to have daily oversight of the Temple Mount since Jerusalem was united under the Jewish state in 1967, Cantor said.

After the Oslo Peace Accords of 1993, however, Arafat replaced the Jordanian-affiliated officials of the Waqf with Sabri, the congressman said.



**PILLAGED PILLARS** — Ancient pillars from the Temple Mount in Jerusalem have been cut and destroyed under the control of the Palestinian Authority. (Photos courtesy of Committee for the Prevention of Destruction of Antiquities on the Temple Mount)

The Temple Mount Preservation Act, H.R. 2566, introduced by Rep. Eric Cantor with 16 cosponsors, would bar all aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA), which is chaired by Yasser Arafat, as long as it continues unauthorized excavations that have destroyed artifacts on the Temple Mount.

## 'Deadly sins' can kill PowerPoint presentations

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — The sins of wimpy contrast, multi-colored text, small font size, crowded text, copious transitions, bountiful bullets, and boring slides can condemn a PowerPoint presentation and render it worthless, a specialist points out.

"I call these the seven deadly sins of PowerPoint presentations because these are the things that will most assuredly kill your presentation faster than anything — and they are the seven things I see most often," Steve Williams told discipleship leaders attending Discipleship and Family Week at LifeWay Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center.

Powerpoint is a computer software program for visual support of lectures, conferences, sermons, and other presentations.

"I have about four or five passions in life, and helping churches and people become more effective visually is one of them," said Williams, discipleship specialist in the discipleship and family leadership department of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

People remember 30% of what they hear and 70% of what they see and hear, Williams said. Additionally, he said, people comprehend three times as much when they see an image.

Williams listed and explained what he considers to be the seven deadly sins of ineffective PowerPoint presentations:

- Too little contrast is the result of using text and backgrounds of similar colors. "A basic rule is there should be enough contrast between them so text can be easily read. The greatest contrast is white text on a black background or black text on a white background," he said.

- Too many colors used for text and objects can result in a rainbow effect. "The brain tries to figure out why are there so many colors, and if it's doing that, it's going offline," he said.

- Too much text makes a slide look cluttered and hard to read. "Use the 'five and 10 rule.' Limit each slide to about five lines of text that can be read in about 10 seconds. Six lines are OK, seven if you have to ... but when you get beyond that you have too much text," he said.

Williams said if the presentation requires more text, automate the text so it doesn't come on the screen at the same time. Present part of it on half the slide, giving the viewer time to read it, then put the remainder up on the bottom half of the slide.

- Text that is too small means people will have to strain to read it. "This will distract them and cause them to miss hearing the point," he said.

- Too many bullets make a presentation

predictable and boring. "Bullets are great if used sparingly and wisely, but I've seen presentations where the number of bullets used reached the regurgitating stage," he said.

Williams suggests using "unbullets" like pictures or placing text inside various shaped objects like ovals, rectangles or circles.

- Too many transition effects can disorient the viewer. "Transition effects are used to change from one slide to another during a presentation. PowerPoint 2000 gives you 60 or 70 effects, but they shouldn't all be used in one presentation," he said.

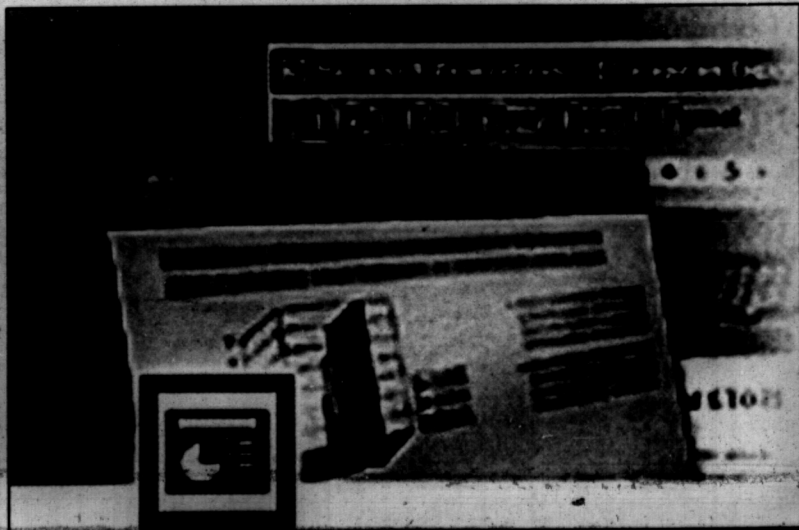
Williams suggests using the K.I.S.S. principle with transition effects. "That's 'Keep It Simple, Sweetheart.' Use a maximum of two to three different effects throughout your whole presentation. Use them when you are switching content," he said.

- Using boring slides can put the audience to sleep. "I've described a lot of excesses when creating slides, but underdoing it can be as bad as overdoing it," Williams said.

Effective use of colors and graphic objects can add appeal to presentations and make people want to watch them, he said. Clip art, photos, WordArt, and autoshapes help make slides more visually appealing when used correctly.

"By eliminating the seven deadly sins from your presentations, you will encourage your audience to focus on your message and learn more," Williams said, "and they won't think you started using PowerPoint yesterday."

For more information about effective PowerPoint presentations, e-mail Williams at [steve.williams@lifeway.com](mailto:steve.williams@lifeway.com).



### Bibliocipher

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CMBG RGGG CRGFGIVFG  
DPCV WVDFAGNHGA, BPS  
CV BNN CRG INVEM,  
VHGF CRG ZRKER CRG  
RVNW YRVAC RBCR OBSC  
WVD VHGFAGGFA, CV  
IGGS CRG ERDFER VI  
YVS, ZRKER RG RBCR  
UDFERBAGS ZKCR RKA  
VZP TNVVS.

BECA CZGPCW: CZGPCW-  
GKYRC

Clue: W = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty-One: Twenty-Five.